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The Black Tapes

The Black Tapes is a fiction podcast created by Paul Bae and Terry Miles. It is hosted by Alex Reagan (voiced by Lori Henry), released as a spin-off of the fictional radio program *Pacific Northwest Stories*.[1] The series is produced by Nic Silver (voiced by Terry Miles). Reagan narrates a nonfiction-styled fictional story over multiple episodes, using a format that has been compared to *Serial*.[2][3] The story begins as a biography of paranormal investigator Dr. Richard Strand (voiced by Christian Sloan), an "evangelical skeptic" on a mission to debunk all claims of the supernatural. Reagan becomes interested in his collection of unsolved cases, which she begins calling his "Black Tapes,"[2] and the podcast evolves into an exploration of these cases, paranormal culture, and the mysterious life of Dr. Strand.

The Black Tapes	
Presentation	
Hosted by	Alex Reagan
Genre	Investigative journalism Serialized audio narrative Horror podcast pseudo-documentary
Language	English
Updates	Thursday morning Season 1: Episode 1–6: weekly Episode 7–12: bi-weekly Season 2–3: bi-weekly
Production	
Audio format	Podcast (via streaming or downloadable MP3)
No. of seasons	3
No. of episodes	30
Publication	
Original release	May 21, 2015 – November 7, 2017

Production

Episodes vary in length, from thirty-five to fifty minutes. New episodes were originally available weekly, but partway through the first season the schedule was revised to every other week.

The original run of *The Black Tapes* was from May 21 2015 to September 7 2017. The show ended with a six episode wrap-up and the creators stated that was the end. Then on March 20 2018 it was announced on the official Twitter account for *The Black Tapes* that the show would return for another season.[4]

On January 13 2020 season 3 of *The Black Tapes* was re-released with no changes to the audio. However, the episode description of the final episode "Into the Black" was changed to denote that it is the "Season Three Mid-Season finale".[5]

Episodes

The first season of *The Black Tapes* premiered May 21, 2015. The last episode, the mid-season finale, was released November 7, 2017.[6]

Provider	Pacific Northwest Stories
	Related
Website	*The Black Tapes Podcast* (http://theblacktapespodcast.com/)

Season 1

Episode	Title[6]	Release date[6]	Production code[6]
1	"A Tale of Two Tapes Part I"	May 25, 2015	101
While hosting the pilot of a podcast focusing on interviewing people with interesting jobs, Alex Reagan is roped into a paranormal investigation of an abandoned and allegedly haunted credit union. Over the course of the investigation, she contacts well-known paranormal investigator and skeptic Dr. Richard Strand to analyze the haunting. He uncovers evidence apparently proving that the haunting is a hoax, but Alex chooses to shift the focus of the podcast to a documentary on Strand after being intrigued by his collection of unsolved cases, a series of black VHS tapes nicknamed "the Black Tapes".			
2	"A Tale of Two Tapes Part II"	May 26, 2015	102
Alex and Strand travel to San Francisco to follow up on one of the Black Tapes, which centers around the apparent haunting of the Torres family by a malevolent, shadow-like spirit.			
3	"The Unsound"	June 2, 2015	103
After the suicide of the lead singer of popular Seattle underground rock band Hastur Rising, Alex and Strand are contacted by the band's guitarist, who claims that his suicide was caused by a recording of the Unsound, a mysterious piece of audio alleged to have been created by the Devil himself.			
4	"Turn that Frown Upside Down"	June 9, 2015	104
After receiving a video tape of a young woman apparently being frightened to death by an unseen figure, Alex and Strand are drawn to the small town of Charlesworth, Maine, and its local legend: the Woman with the Upside Down Face.			
5	"The Devil You Know"	June 16, 2015	105
6	"The Devil's Door"	June 23, 2015	106
7	"Cabin Fever"	August 4, 2015	107
8	"Board to Death"	August 18, 2015	108
9	"Name that Tune"	September 9, 2015	109
10	"Their Satanic Monastery's Request"	September 15, 2015	110
11	"The Codex Gigas"	September 29, 2015	111
12	"Shadow Dancing"	October 13, 2015	112

Season 2

Episode	Title[6]	Release date[6]	Production code[6]
1	"Sleepless in Seattle"	January 19, 2016	201
2	"Speak No Evil, Think No Evil"	February 2, 2016	202
3	"Hush Little Baby"	February 16, 2016	203
4	"Voices Carry"	March 1, 2016	204
5	"Cheryl"	May 10, 2016	205
6	"All in the Family"	May 24, 2016	206
7	"Personal Possessions"	June 7, 2016	207
8	"Riverview"	June 21, 2016	208
9	"The Brothers of the Mount"	July 5, 2016	209
10	"Welcome to the Machine"	July 19, 2016	210
11	"About a Boy"	August 2, 2016	211
12	"The Axis Mundi"	August 16, 2016	212

Season 3

This season was re-released on 13 January 2020 with changes to the description of episode 6 "Into the Black" to describe it as the "mid-season finale".[7]

Episode	Title[6]	Release date[6]	Production code[6]
1	"The Sins of the Father"	August 29, 2017	301
2	"The Musica Mundana"	September 12, 2017	302
3	"A Family Gathering"	September 26, 2017	303
4	"Songs and Signs"	October 10, 2017	304
5	"Worlds Collide"	October 24, 2017	305
6	"Into the Black"	November 7, 2017	306

Music

'The Kingdom of the Universe', which is played near the start of each episode, was written by Ashley Park. Terry Miles wrote the podcast's theme. The series uses free royalty-free music by Kevin MacLeod.[8]

1:49

'Ghostpocalypse - 6 Crossing the Threshold' is one of several tracks by Kevin MacLeod used in *The Black Tapes*.

Reception

The podcast has received generally favorable reviews for its writing, production, and intricacy. Melissa Locker in *The Guardian* described the podcast as taking place in "a world where math, musical theory, obscure points of history, and science become either clues of a possible demonic invasion – or just random events linked only by an active imagination."[9]

See also

- *Tanis*, a sister show to *The Black Tapes* in which Alex Reagan sometimes appeared
- Horror podcast

References

1. Grant, Drew (12 July 2016). "Top 10 Creepy, Fictional Podcasts: What to Listen to When Reality Becomes Too Scary" (https://observer.com/2016/07/top-10-creepy-fictional-podcasts-what-to-listen-to-when-reality-becomes-too-scary/). *Observer*. Retrieved 25 July 2016.
2. Baker-Whitelaw, Gavia (13 October 2015). " 'The Black Tapes' is a 'Serial'-style podcast that will scare your socks off" (http://www.dailydot.com/parsec/black-tapes-podcast-horror-interview/). *Daily Dot*.
3. Osberg, Molly (24 February 2016). " 'The Black Tapes' Is 'Serial' Meets Creepypasta" (http://motherboard.vice.com/read/the-black-tapes-podcast-pacific-northwest-stories). *Motherboard*. Vice.
4. "The Black Tapes on Twitter" (https://twitter.com/blacktapespod/status/976232836863676416). *Twitter*. Retrieved 29 June 2018.
5. "The Black Tapes" (http://theblacktapes.libsyn.com/). *theblacktapes.libsyn.com*. Retrieved 2020-01-12.
6. "The Black Tapes by Pacific Northwest Stories on Apple Podcasts" (https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-black-tapes/id997522893?mt=2). *Apple Podcasts*. Retrieved 29 June 2018.
7. "The Black Tapes" (http://theblacktapes.libsyn.com/). *theblacktapes.libsyn.com*. Retrieved 2020-01-12.
8. "The music of The Black Tapes Podcast" (http://theblacktapespodcast.com/music/), *theblacktapespodcast.com*, retrieved 11 May 2021
9. Locker, Melissa (11 December 2015). "The 10 best new podcasts of 2015 (that aren't Serial!)" (https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2015/dec/11/10-best-new-podcasts-2015-serial). *The Guardian*.

External links

- Official website (http://theblacktapespodcast.com/)

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